

There was no objection.

NATIONAL ADULT EDUCATION AND FAMILY LITERACY WEEK

(Mr. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, today marks the start of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, and we must renew our efforts to help ensure every American is literate.

Today, 93 million American adults function below a high school level of literacy, lacking the most basic skills needed to compete in the 21st century economy. The unemployment crisis falls most heavily here—14.3 percent of Americans without a high school diploma are unemployed; among high school graduates with no additional education, the rate drops to 9.6 percent.

By supporting efforts to expand literacy, we can extend a hand to individuals and families across America. Making sure adults can read to their child or understand printed material at work isn't just good for them, it's essential for competing in the global economy.

Learning is a lifelong process. It doesn't stop the day you leave school. So let's renew our efforts to promote adult and family literacy both for the good of families and for the good of the country.

RIISING FOOD PRICES

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the Fed Chairman, Ben Bernanke, said last week when he was giving his speech that we didn't really have to worry about inflation, that the long-term inflation problem would not get beyond 2 percent. So in case Mr. Bernanke or the administration is paying attention, I'd like to read a few facts to them.

The price of milk has gone up 38 percent since last year. The price of sugar is up 20 percent since last year. The price of corn is up 62 percent since last year. As of August, beef prices grew 13 percent, or 52 cents a pound, since last year—the largest increase in the last 7 years. Gasoline is up 35 percent from a year ago, 98 cents a gallon, and the projected inflation rate is much, much higher than the administration or the Fed says is going to occur.

So I hope that we will stop these Keynesian policies, these socialistic policies, these big-spending policies that are killing the American people.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1161

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1161.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

CBC HOUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. This evening, I am again pleased to join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to talk about jobs for this first hour, and we are really pleased that we're going to be led off this night by our Democratic whip, The Honorable STENY HOYER, the person who has led us in the Make It In America agenda.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentlelady for yielding, and I thank her for her leadership.

I want to thank the Congressional Black Caucus, which has raised this issue to a new height of not only visibility but of hope.

EMANUEL CLEAVER, the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, told a wonderful story in our caucus the other day. He said there was a little boy and his dad, and his dad was reading the paper. The little boy scratched his hand, and as he did so, it obviously hurt. He went in front of his dad, shaking his hand. He walked to and from his father, and his father kept reading the paper. Finally, his father put down the paper and said, "Son, I know you scratched your hand, but there's nothing I can do about it."

And the little boy looked at his dad and said, "You can say, 'Ouch.'"

You can understand the pain that I am experiencing. You can understand the pain that losing a job is causing me. You can understand the pain of a home that is lost because the mortgage cannot be paid. You can understand the pain of a family, living in a home, who has seen the value of that most important asset of theirs dwindle and be reduced so that the mortgage payment they're paying is more than the value of the home in which they live.

The Congressional Black Caucus did two things: It said, "We hear and we say, 'Ouch.' We understand the pain you're experiencing. We feel your pain." But if all we do is empathize and feel pain, that's not enough.

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Our President addressed us last week, and he said we can shrug our shoulders and say there are 14 months until the next election, but the people in pain can't wait 14 months.

And that's what the Congressional Black Caucus did. Tens of thousands of people showed up throughout this Nation because somebody offered hope, and not just hope but real deliverables. Jobs were gotten; interviews were set up; training sessions for how you apply, how you dress, how you talk to

prospective employers. Those kinds of seminars were given. A difference was made by the Congressional Black Caucus traveling throughout this country.

So I rise to thank the leadership and all the members of the Congressional Black Caucus. I see Mr. DAVIS and Ms. WATERS on the floor with DONNA CHRISTENSEN, and I thank them for their leadership in particular. MAXINE WATERS was an extraordinarily strong voice for saying just that: we feel your pain, and it's not just empathy we're going to give you; we're going to give you the help that we can give.

This President came before us last week and said, ladies and gentlemen, it is time to act. It is time to add to the opportunity for success for putting America back to work, for addressing the mortgage crisis in our country, for putting some more money in the pockets of working men and women in this country, for helping small business grow and expand, making sure as well that we pay for what we buy.

Every commission that has met, the Bowles-Simpson Commission and the Domenici-Rivlin Commission, said, yes, we have to get a handle on this debt and deficit, of which I'm a strong proponent; but in the short term we need to grow the economy because if you do not grow the economy, you will not get the deficit down because you need people working so that they can support themselves and their families and, yes, pay taxes, so that their grandchildren will not be deeply in debt. So I stand indebted to the Congressional Black Caucus for continuing to focus like a laser on creating jobs.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD, another member of the Congressional Black Caucus and leader in our House, the chief deputy whip, is here as well and will be speaking so that in North Carolina and in America we can create jobs, invest in growing our economy, and, yes, give confidence, give confidence to every single individual, every family, and, yes, every business—small, medium, and large; that this Congress will act responsibly to address a challenge, to address the pain that our people are feeling, and to make sure in the long term, as we did in the 1990s, that our country is on a sound fiscal path leading to growth in the economy, jobs for our people, and a stronger and healthier America.

So I am pleased to join the Congressional Black Caucus, thanking them, congratulating them, and saying that I look forward to working with them, not just today, but today, tomorrow, the next day, and the next week until such time as our people are no longer in the pain they now experience.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Democratic whip, for joining us, and please come back and join us anytime that we're on the floor. And thank you for reminding everyone that the people of this country just cannot wait 14 months to go back to work to take care of their families.

At this time I would like to yield to Congressman DAVIS from Illinois.